

REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application and for the courteous telephone interview conducted on July 6, 2010 between applicant's counsel and Examiner Hsiao and Examiner Siconolfi, and for the further telephone interview conducted on July 26, 2010 between applicant's counsel and Examiner Hsiao. During the July 6 interview, applicant proposed amending claim 1 substantially as it has now been amended. It was agreed during the telephone interview that the proposed amendments to claim 1 defined over US 4265134 because the '134 reference did not have the spacers (13a, 13b) located above or below the pivot (6); rather, '134 had certain elements in the central region between the pivots but not above or below the pivots. During the telephone interview, the Examiners noted that the proposed amended claim did not clearly define over Fig. 9 of Nagano (US 5288278). It was agreed that applicant would revise the proposed amended claim to more clearly define over Fig. 9 of Nagano and send it to the Examiner. Applicant proposed amending claim 1 to require that the protuberance extend from an end portion of an internal plate toward one or more locations within the periphery of an end portion of an external plate or from an end portion of an external plate toward one or more locations within the periphery of an end portion of an internal plate. During the telephone interview on July 26, 2010, Examiner Hsiao agreed that this wording solved the problem and defined over Nagano; with these changes, the Examiners agreed that claim 1 as now amended appears to define over the prior art of record.

It is believed that, as a result of the telephone interview, it is agreed that claim 1 as now amended defines over the art of record and is in condition for allowance. All the other claims are dependent claims and are allowable at least by reason of their dependency. The amendments to claim 1 are supported by the drawings as filed, particularly Figs. 1-6; support for the other amended claims is as follows: claims 3-6 are based on amended claim 1; claim 7 is based on prior claim 4; claim 8 is based on prior claim 5; claim 9 is based on prior claim 5; claim 10 is based on prior claims 8 and 10; claim 11 is based on Fig. 4; claim 12 is based on Fig. 5; claim 22 is based on prior claim 19; claim 24 is based on Fig. 7; claim 25 is based on Fig. 8; claim 27 is based on Fig. 9; claim 29 is based on Fig. 10; claim 31 is based on prior claim 20.

In summary, it is believed that all the claims now in the case are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that further changes are required in order to place the claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact

applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone so that a resolution can be reached promptly.

If any further fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. BUGB-46812.

Respectfully submitted,
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